

Running the Race Well

- Ephesians 2:19–22
- “Being Built Together for God’s Dwelling”



Context: The Letter to Ephesians

- Written by Paul (AD 60–64) to the church in Ephesus.
- Ephesus: major city of trade & pagan worship (Temple of Artemis).
- Church made up of Jews & Gentiles.
- Themes: Unity & Spiritual Growth.
- Paul reminds believers to live out their new identity in Christ.

Ephesians 2:19–22 (NKJV)

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

Church Identity #1 – We Belong to God's Family

- No longer strangers or foreigners
- We are fellow citizens (Kingdom of God)
- We are saints (set apart)
- We are members of God's household (family)
- Church = not an institution first, but a family born through faith in Christ.

²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

- **foundation**- “base, groundwork — that which something solidly rests upon.”
- **apostles**- “one who is sent out.”
- **prophets**- “one who speaks forth.”
- **chief Cornerstone**- “chief cornerstone, capstone, the principal stone at the corner of a building that joins two walls together.”

chief cornerstone...

- **Isaiah 28:16 — “Behold, I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation.”**
- **Psalms 118:22 — “The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**
- **In Ephesians 2:20, Paul declares Jesus Christ Himself is the chief cornerstone**

Church Identity #2 – We Are Extensions of the Kingdom With Christ as Our Cornerstone

- Foundation - firm base
- Built on apostles (sent ones)
- Built on prophets (speaking on behalf of God)
- Chief Cornerstone - Jesus Christ - sets direction & unity
- Without Christ, the Church loses direction and cohesion

²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

- **being fitted together-** “to join or fit parts together into a whole.”
- **grows-** “to grow, increase, enlarge, become greater, to cause to grow.” Used in the present tense as an “ongoing, continuous action.”
- **Holy-** “Set apart, sacred, consecrated for divine use.”
- **Temple-** “a sanctuary, the inner dwelling place of a deity — not the whole temple complex (*hieron*), but specifically the Most Holy Place where God’s presence dwells.”

Church Identity #3 – God Is Building His Church as His Dwelling

- Being fitted together – as a whole
 - Grows - ongoing process
 - Holy – set apart
 - Temple – inner dwelling place for God
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- God is fitting us together
 - God = Master Builder
 - Christ = Cornerstone
 - Believers = Living stones

Our Identity as the Church

- We Belong to God's Family
- We Are Extensions of the Kingdom with Christ as our Cornerstone
- We Are Being Built Together as God's Dwelling Place
- Ephesians 2:19–22